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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,521	10/13/2006	Steffen Laurisch	02316.2168USWO	1625
23552	7590	09/04/2007		
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			EXAMINER SMITH, CHAD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/553,521

Applicant(s)

LAURISCH ET AL.

Examiner

Chad H. Smith

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/553,521.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious wherein a connection part is arranged between the cable ducts.
2. Claim 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: wherein the mounting panel to the rear of the cassette mount is provided with V-shaped extensions bent downwards.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puetz et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,424,781 B1) in view of Xin et al. (U.S. PG Pub # 2002/0181922 A1).

Art Unit: 2874

4. Puetz et al. teaches a glass-fiber coupler module, comprising a cassette mount (322, fig. 21), which is connected to a front panel (383, fig. 21), a first group of couplers (142) wherein the first group of couplings is arranged on a mounting panel (fig. 21 (but not labeled there)), the mounting panel being arranged on the cassette mount such that it can pivot (col. 10, lines 1 – 4).

5. Necessarily the optical fibers are composed of glass as is commonly used in the telecommunications industry as glass allows a broader range of wavelengths to be transmitted.

6. Puetz et al. is silent to the cassette mount being assigned a coupler, by means of which the signals of at least one incoming glass fiber are distributed over at least two outgoing glass fibers, a second group of couplings being arranged on a front panel and glass fibers from the first group of couplings being passed into the coupler and the outgoing glass fibers from the coupler being connected to the second group of couplings.

7. Xin et al. teaches an optical splitter array and a second group of couplings (pars. 0021, and 0026, fig. 5, item 200).

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Puetz et al.'s coupler module with Xin et al.'s teaching of an optical splitter array (coupler) so as to use the coupler module that is mounted in a frame as an access terminal for connecting optical fibers and replacing item 382a and 382b with the plurality of optical fiber adapters (second group of couplers) of Xin et al. and attaching the optical splitter

Art Unit: 2874

array to the cassette mount between the two spools in fig. 21. This configuration allows for the signals traveling into the coupler module from the fibers external (to the left in fig. 21) to the coupler module to be branched to a multitude of subscriber lines represented by the first group of optical couplers in a compact configuration.

9. Regarding claim 2, it is inherent that each incoming patch cable is assigned a coupling in the first group a connectors are in place on the other side of the mounting panel as shown in figures 20 and 21 (col. 10, lines 15 – 23).

10. Regarding claim 3, Puetz et al. teaches wherein all of the couplings in the first group are arranged in a row (fig. 21).

11. Regarding claim 4, Xin et al. teaches wherein all of the couplings in the second group are arranged in a row (fig. 2).

12. Regarding claims 5, 6, 7 and 8, Puetz et al. teaches wherein directional changing elements (an inner limiter) that have at least one retainer (386) for accommodating a spare working length of glass fibers are arranged beneath the mounting panel (fig. 21, col. 11, lines 16 – 26).

13. Regarding claim 9, Puetz et al. teaches wherein cable ducts are arranged on the sides of the mounting panel (fig. 21 and fig. 34, col. 11, lines 16 – 26).

Art Unit: 2874

14. Regarding claim 10, Puetz et al. teaches wherein the width of the mounting panel with the cable ducts is less than or equal to the width of the cassette mount (figs 17 and 33).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad H. Smith whose telephone number is (571) 270-1294. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30a.m. - 5:00p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-270-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2874

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chad H. Smith/
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Primary Examiner
AU 2874